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ADVERTISEMENTS received every day; advertisements in-eted in the WHERLY HERALD, FAMILY HURALD, and in the peted in the Whatespean Editions.
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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING. ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place .- ZAMPILLARROS

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway. -- Rory O'More -- LAW FOR WALLACE'S THEATRE, No. 844 Broadway .- Magic Man-

LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, Broadway. -- Seven Sons. NEW ROWERY THEATRE, Bowery .- Julius Casar-

BOWERY THEATRE, BOWERY. -STICKERY'S NATIONAL BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway, -- Day and Byening, -- Negrous MAN-THE HARL'S DAUGHTER -- Hipportance, Whale, and Other Chelostric.

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broad HOOLEY'S MINSTREES, Stayresant Institute, No. 659 MELODEON CONCERT HALL, No. 539 Brundway, Songs, Dances, Burlesques, &c. -- Salvator Rosa.

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METROPOLITAN CONCERT HALL, 600 Broadway.-ORYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Howery,-Bunksques, Songs, Dances, &c. +Dinan's Weeping. PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 563 Broadway, -Open daily from 10 A. M. till 9 P. M.

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New York, Monday, December 16, 1861

THE SITUATION.

The European news by the Europa and City of Washington, telegraphed from Halifax and Cape Race, and which is published in the Herald this morning, is of the highest importance to all clames of our renders. The advices from Great Britain are dated to the 5th inst., embracing a record of the events which transpired in England and France from the 28th of November, a period of seven days. So far as the statement relates to the present position of American affairs abroad, and the probable future policy of both the above named countries towards the United States, it is of a very serious character.

England was agitated to an intense pitch of excitement by the supposed insult perpetrated on her flag by the arrest of Mason and Slidell on board the mall steamer Trent. The anti-American section of the London press had lashed the people into a perfeet storm of rage, and a Cableet Council, held with Ministers, had almost agreed on making the case a cause of war with our government. As a first result, the Europa was detained at Queenstown by of the government to the 2d inst. and took Queen's messenger on board, with despatches for Lord Lyons, in which, it is said, the Ambassador L instructed to demand from President Lincoln, in a firm and determined manner, the restoration of Mason and Slidell to the travelling status and position which they enjoyed before Centain Willess took them in hand, as well as a disavowal of and government apology for the act of that officer from the San Jacinto towards the Trent-

The London journals intimate that the Palmer ston Cabinet had resolved on this course in consequence of having a decision from the law officers of the crown to the effect that the seizure of the persons of the "Southern Envoys" to Europe was illegal under the circumstances and as much an outrage against International law as it it had been effected on British soil.

As an additional stimulus the London Observer, a ministerial print, demands that Mason and Shdell should be placed on board a British frigate, in the presence of several other English war vessels, lying either in the Potomac or in the harbor of New York. Great preparations were made to have the naval reserve of England ready for service, so as that her powerfully and promptly reinforced if necessary.

Should war be undertaken by England she is recommended by a London paper to, first, raise the Union blockade of the Southern ports; secondly, blockade our Northern ports, and thirdly, in conjunction with France, to acknowledge the independence of the South.

An active movement had been undertaken to reinforce the British army in Canada, and the ships Melbourne and Australasian were chartered to convey troops, artillery and munitions of war to the colony, while the famous iron-plated frigate Warrior, with the Orpheus (twenty-one guns), are to be sent out to North America immediately.

Queen Victoria had issued a proclamation for bidding the export from all ports of the United Kingdom of gunpowder, nitre, nitrate of soda, brimstone, lead, and firesims.

Great alarm prevailed in the Stock Exchange in London. The English funds had fallen, consols were fluctuating and lower. American securities Bat and tending downward, and Canadian stocks sek depreciated in value. The agitation had also affected the Paris Bourse adversely.

The English reformers of the Bright and Cobden icheol were already in favor of peace, and Mr. Bright had delivered a speech in which he counselled a more calm coasideration of the affair, and generally upheld the cause of the North. Mr. Cobden had expressed similar sentiments in a letter. The London Star-a democratic organ-denies the

to operate against us, should hostilities actually take place. In this connection it is interesting to exhibit the strength of her fleets in the waters of North America and the West Indies, the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, as their united force will no doubt operate against us in the event of war. With this view we publish the following statement of

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN AND WEST INDIA PLEET. REAR ADMIRAL SIR ALEXANDER MINE, R. M., E. C. B., COM

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HEN, R. N., COMMANDING. Officer Commanding. Guns. Steamer Calypso Centain, T. Sam. C. R. Robson. A. P. H. Helby. G. H. Richards. Steamer Forward.....

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camer Turtar, J. M. Hayes
camer Termagent R. Hall
camer Topaze How J. W. S. Spencer TOTAL.

We thus have the annexed RECAPITULATION OF THE BRITISH NAVAL FORCE | Designation of Pleet | No. of Ver.els | Grass orth American and West India | 50 | 714 | aft of Mexico | 4 | 319 | acitle | 90 | 427 It was at first said that the Emperor Napoleon

approved of England's policy, and the Paris journals condemned our action in the arrest of the re bel commissioners. The Emperor, it was also al leged, had determined to soon acknowledge the Southern confederacy. He had also propose! his services, it was said, as mediator between the United States and England; but at the latest moment the French journals were inclined to clampe their tone in our faver, and the Paris Moultone of the 5th instant quietly warns England of the "powerful" voice of the American people hope of a peaceful arbitration. The Monifless adds that Napoleon is in "no harry to recognize the South."

It was reported that the James Adger had captured and burned a privateer.

The diplomatic corps in Washington will doubtless be put in a state of ferment for a week or ten days when it becomes known that a special Queen's messenger is passenger by the Europa, and that he is a bearer of despatches to Lord Lyons; also that the Penguin, from Bermuda, brings despatches for that functionary from Admiral Milne. There is but little doubt, however, that nothing further, at present, will be done by Lord Lyons than to open un a correspondence with our government relative to the matter in dispute. The news by the Enropa does not nonear yet to disturb the government at Washington.

By the City of Washington we have later intelligence, among which is a report that Louis Napoteon has offered his services as a mediator between the North and South,

Our advices from St. Louis record the payeterion departure of Separar Trusten Polk for the so called outhern confederacy, taking with him ien thousand dollars in gold, a small value and a pair of horses. North American and West India fleet may be | There can no longer be any ceason for delaying his expelsion from the Senate at Washington.

The captain of the Illinois states that an h passed within six miles of Charleston harbor, on or about the 12th inst., on his road from Port Reval to Old Point, he noticed that an extensive conflavoration was evidently at its height in that city. The reflection on the clouds exceeded anything he ever saw. He describes it as appearing to be caused by an uncontrollable conflagration that must have been raging for some time.

By the same vessel we learn that all the islands adjacent to Port Royal are occupied by Union troops, and that two millions of dollars worth of cotton has been scured.

Colonel Malligan, of Lexington fame, has been invited to lecture in this city. He has accepted the invitation, and will lecture on Wednesday next. the proceeds to be devoted to the relief of Ireland. A report had reached St. Louis yesterday that

Generals Rains and Stain, with their rebel forces. had taken possession of Lexington, that the Union troops had engaged them there, and that a battle was then in progress. Additional Union troops were marching in that direction to meet the rebels.

In Kentucky the movements of the troops betoken an early engagement with, the rebeis. The contending forces are large on both sides, the rebels having twenty-five thousand men under General Buckner, and the Unionists a sufficient force to give them battle. General Buell, in Louisville, is The London Star—a democratic organ—denies the in constant telegraphic communication with the place of the other fourming to the othe

naval force which England can immediately bring armies are fortifying, and at Fishing creek, five miles west of that place, General Zollicoffer is also reported erecting rebel batteries. There are indefinite rumors in Cincinnati of an engagement between General McCook and the rebels at Mumfordsville, but they are not credited.

A skirmish is reported as having taken place at Somerset on the 3d inst., between a scouting party of Unionists (Ohio troops) and a rebel force under Colonel Zolly. As the Union troops were outnumbered, they had to retire. Major Helveti and Captain F. E. Prime, United States Army, Chief Engineer of General Buell's staff, were taken prison ers by the rebels.

A change in the military command of the rebels at Goose creek, Virginia, has recently taken place, Gen. Evans having been superseded by Gen. Hill-a recreant brevet second lientenant of the United States Army. The troops have lately been somewhat shifted about between Leesburg, Martinsburg and Centreville, and ten thousand rebels are now reported in possession of Winchester.

The news selected from the rebel journals and published in this day's HERALD is interesting. Zollicoffer's rebel troops in Kentucky are, at last accounts, reported as having moved to Burkville on the north bank of the Cumberland river, about 120 miles southeast of Bowling Green. The Richmond Dispatch contradicts the report that the rebel general Sterling Price had been superseded in his command of the Missouri forces. It admits that such a measure was contemplated, but alleges that prudence dictated to Gen. Jeff. Davis that such a course of action would be impolitic.

The rebel Gen. Backner recently sent a flag of truce from his camp at Bowling Green, Ky., to the Union lines, asking permission for his wife to pass on to Louisville with the mortal remains of their infant daughter, which they wished to inter in their family veult in that city. General Buell courteously denied the request.

A correspondent of the Nashville Courier, writing under date of the 21st ult., states that the rebel Kentucky soldiers at Manassas are anxious to return home.

The same paper reports that on the 4th inst. body of Union cavalry made a descent on Whippoorwill bridge, on the Memphis Branch Pailroad, damaged the bridge, and took eleven rekel soldiers prisoners. The rebels consider that the injury thus accomplished by our troops is "serious, out of all proportions to the loss sustained."

A New York merchant recently returned from Richmond, makes an interesting statement, in which he says that business is generally suspended at the South; and that the people of the confederacy are a unit for secession; a general wish is expressed there that this country may become involved in a war with England, growing out of the Slidell-Muson seizure.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The news from Europe, by the Europa at Halifax and City of Washington off Cape Race, is dated to the 5th of December -one week later than that received by the Hansa. The Europa reports the progress of commercial

and financial affairs in England and France, with the tone of the markets as affected by the war agitation in Great Britain, to the moments pre vious to the departure of the City of Washington. The last named vessel brings the latest quo affors thus: - In the Liverpool cotton market, on the 35 and 4th inst., there were eighteen thousand bales hold. Prices were firmer, but the rates were un thanged. Broadsinffs were steady and unchanged. Consols closed in London on the 5th inst. at 90% a 195% for money. The British funds fell enc-ball per cent on the 3d inst. The market for American securities was flat and tending downwards in Lon-don on the 5th inst. Canadian securities were very flat and depreciated in value. The Paris errse was dell and heavy on the 4th inst,

Spain still maintained her unfriendly position popular ovation at Barcelona. Garibeldi was very moderate in his language, but the Gariballians in Switzerland were ordered to hold themelves in readlaces for action within a month. The Emperor Napoleon had been complimented in a very agreeable manner by the steek dealers on the Paris Bourse, who offered to erect a statue to him within the enclosure.

The ship Lady Frenklin, from London for New York, put late Plymouth on the 3d inch., and was arned and scutted the same night.

The achomers form F. Darfier, David Cown and Arlington, lying at the government dock foot of Warren street, North river, are now leading provi sions for Locust Point. They will each carry about 350 tons, and will probably sail this evening A three masted schooner, Captain Williams, 19 ng at the same dock, will sail to-day for Port Royal S. C. She has a full cargo, consisting of provisions and 550 bates bay.

The United States steam transport Vanderbilt, lying at the foot of Warren street, will sail to-day t noon for Port Revol. Nine government vessels sailed yesterday after

n-two baths, two brigs and five schoolers The necessary stores for them were shipped from the barge office pler during the past few days. The ship Ann E. Thompson, lying at pler 52 East river, is now loading stores for government,

consisting of flour, beef, pork, candles, sonp. oil and other small stores. Destination unknown. A correspondent at Carson City, Nevada Terri tory, writing under date of November 9, states his belief that there is enough gold and silver ore in

the mountains of that region to samply the world for the next thousand years. From went of capital but few mines have been opened, but all that have been developed are paying well, and the shares held at \$5,000 per feet. Governor Nye is represented to be very popular with all ciasess. The Sherid of Carron City was statited and killed on the night of November 6 by a man named May field.

The Board of Excise have again resumed active prosecutions against unlicensed liquor dealers. On Saturday the following named persons were ar rested for relling liquor without license: -- Louis Roth, of 220 Eleventh street; Jacob Vetter, of 314 Ridge street; Philip B. Wertz, of 336 Pearl street; El: Taylor, of 307 Bowery: Henry Schaub, of 8 Hudson street, and James Wilson, of 147 Fourth street. All persons whose licenses have not yet been paid for are required to pay for the same in mediately, of they will be prosecuted civilly and

criminally. Dr. Cheever preached to a large congregation in the Church of the Puritons, Union square, last evening; and, after descanting at some length on his favorite subject, slavery, he made a passing allusion to the burning of Charleston. He said that the ordeal which this country was going through was terrible, and that nothing but a general conflagration could expel from the political temple what was necessary to be worked out of it. It was owing to confingrations, more than anything Estimates and been published to show the great piles. In the neighborhood of Somerses both brown stone and markle, the

ways made broader and the crooked straight. So the rebellion, if rightly managed, would be the means of sweeping from the land all that is nasty and foul. The preacher then went on to ask his hearers if such an opportunity was to be lost for pushing on the war vigorously, and concluded by expressing a hope that the government would be found equal to the emergency.

The exports of breadstuffs from this port to

Europe during the past week were 1,349,694 bushels grain and 72,379 barrels flour.

and Slidell Case-The Demands of the

British Government. We publish some important news from England this morning. The Europa reached Halifax yesterday, and the City of Washington arrived off Cape Race soon after, bringing one week's later news from Europe. The British government detained the Europa one day for the purpose of sending on a Queen's Messenger, with despatches to Lord Lyons. What may be the purport of these despatches will hereafter appear. According to the intelligence, as found in the London papers, the British government is prepared to demand not only a full apology for the late alleged insult to the English flag, but the restoration to the protection of that fing of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. In making this ancouncement, the English papers add that when twelve British vessels-of-war shall make their appearance in the Potomac or in the Bay of New York, both of these gentlemen will no doubt be restored to the protection of the English government. After saying a good deal about the feeling of the British people in reference to the insult to their flag, and the opinions of the American press in reference to the promotion of Captain Wilkes for this gallant act, the English papers conclude that the American government will agree to the terms demanded of them. But by the latest despatches, explaining the reasons for the detention of the Europa, it is shown that the intelligence conveyed by the l'ersia, which left this port on the 20th ult., informing the English people of the universal sentiment of approval of the conduct of the commander of the San Jacinto, had produced some effect in England, and that consegmently the original instructions to the British Minister at Washington had been somewhat modified, but were still strong enough to satisfy

any Englishman. All this excitement has been produced in England by the agitation of the cotton merchants, the politicians and manufacturers in want of the raw material, demanding instant reparation for this alleged outrage to the British flag; and the government, feeling the necessity of doing something in consequence of the pressure of the tory party upon them, have taken the strong position reported in this news. Every one who understands the relations of the Eritish government to the people will at once see the reason for this diplomatic move. But on carefully reading over the opinions of the leading English newspapers, it is manifest that they have a very bad case, and that it will be a difficult thing for them to establish their right in the eyes of the world. The right of belligerents to board neutrals has been conceded by England for more than a century, and it is a part of her maritime code, insisted upon by her for years; and so patent is this fact that the London Post and London Times had already

There can be no doubt that this news will produce a great sensation throughout this country. But there is no need of getting excited over the details. It is nevertheless the part of wisdom for our government to be prepared for my emergency that may arise. The greatest efforts should at once be made, without the loss of a day, to put our seacoast and take defences in the most effective condition of defence; and our local militia should be more fully armed, sipped and drilled in the use of artillery and cowards new Hal-, although the Minister of Sar- heavy ordnance. These are the daties required dinia, recently just refired from Madrid, enjoyed of each State. For the rest, we may leave the management of this question in the bands of Mr. Secretary Seward.

decided the matter in our favor, although the

latter journal said that this event called for a

With her brilliant successes in the naval struggle between Oliver Cromwell and Holland, two centuries ago, England began to assume a dictatorial supremacy on the seas. From her subsequent naval conflicts with the other maritime Powers of Europe, culminating in the humiliation of the combined naval pretensions of France and Spain at Trafalgar. she practically secured the recognition of her supreme anthority on the ocean by the European continental States. She has, however, during the last half century, recognized. on different occasions, a somewhat alarming obstacle to this supromacy in the great and rapidly growing maritime republic of the United States f America. Hence her industrious labors and suachinations in the work of the dissolution of the Union of these States, through the gitation of the slavery question. The obat of England in this assumed labor of love and philanthropy has been simply the removal of a great and tiourishing rival commercial Power from the field of her exclusive dominion. Nor could human ingenuity have contrived a more formidable engine for this parpose than this sectional slavery agitation.

The enterprise has so far succeeded as to give to the feudul oligarchy of England a new lease of that power which was slipping through their fingers, from the moral infinence of our successful popular institutions. Our Union is temporarily rent in fwain-the moral influence in Europe of our peculiar institutions is suspended, and, with the establishment of a Southern confederacy, the only commercial rival which England holds in fear will be broken up. Before the outbreak of this rebellion the commercial tonnage of the United States had advanced for beyond that of England, and our next step might be a naval setablish ment which would hold ber in check through out this continent. With this Southern rebeltion, therefore, the cloak of English abolition philanthropy is thrown off - her sympathies are with the purely pro-slavery confederacy of Jeff. Davis. Uncle Tom ceases to be her idol, and a cotton bale is set up in his place.

At such a time, and under such circumstances, we are not disturbed by outspoken misgivings of the direct intervention of England as an ally of Jeff. Davis, on the convenient pretext of this affair of Slidell and Mason. But maritime laws. authorities and precedents of England's own making stand in the way. She cannot so broadly stultify herself as this affair would demand in making it an insult. She cannot declare that wrong which, for two centuries,

of Captain Wilkes is none the less galling to England's maritime self-conceit. Assur, ed, however, of her neutrality, from the reasons as signed, we may congratulate ourselves that Captain Wilkes has broken the charm of England's dictatorship on the ocean, and this question may as well be settled for all time to come by properly meeting whatever demands England may now make.

The continental Powers of Europe, including France and Russia, will exult over this trans. action with undisguised pleasure. It is a telling blow at the prestige of England's absolutism on the sea, and hence the indignation in London, Liverpool and Manchester. The United States government, in assuming the responsibility attaching to this Mason and Slidell seizure, at this crisis of a continental domestic war, cannot be weak or doubtful of the issue; and such will be the general opinion of Europe. We dare say that essentially we shall command the respect of the sober second thought of England herself. We incline to think that her sagacious statesmen will soon realize the fact that England's only route to our Southern cotton fields teads through the city of Washington, and that it is safer to consent to the restoration of our Union than to risk the possible European consequences of intervention to achieve our destruction, however desirable this may be in view of the future control of the af-

fairs of North America. Meantime we are confident that this Mason Slidell affair, without interrupting our relations of peace with England, will have a great moral effect in favor of our government and our cause throughout the European continent; but if England is determined, in spite of her own code and long practice, to make demands upon this government such as indicated in the London Observer, she must of course assume all the responsibilities of a war between the two nations It will not probably enter the mind of a single American, for a moment, even after reading the news in our columns to-day, that Mason and Slidell will be surrendered to the English government.

The Terrific Fire at Charleston-Th Charleston is in ruins. The avenging hand

of retribution has fallen upon the citadel of se cession, and terrible has been the visitation.

The steamship Illinois, which left Port Royal at six o'clock on Wednesday evening last, the 11th instant, reports at Fortress Monroe that in passing by Charleston (which must have been about ten o'clock the same evening) the whole city appeared to be enveloped in flames Owing to the bars at the outlet of Charleston Bay, the Illinois, in passing along the outer coast, probably came not nearer the city than the distance of eight or ten miles. The conflagration, then, must indeed have been terrific, when, from the deck of the ship, it appeared as if the whole city was wrapped in a sheet of fire. We have thus every reason to believe that our illustrative map and its accompanying details, which we published yesterday, from the scanty outlines of our telegraphic despatches via Norfolk, were deficient in failing to gover the area of the city destroyed. That this devastating fire was also the work

of an incendiary and of a negro conspiracy there is reason to suspect, from a very remark able coincidence. The Illinois reports that during the night of the 11th, and while she was passing by Charleston, a strong gale was blowing from the northward, so strong that it materially impeded the progress of the ship. It was a dry wind, and from the northward, and the fire broke out in the very spot from which the wind would most surely carry the flames over the bu siness and wealthy portion of the city. This is the coincidence; and it would seem to involve a design and a selection of the time and place best adapted to secure the required co-operation of a high wind in carrying out this design. This suspicion is reduced almost to a conv tion, in connection with our first reports and rumors from secession sources. Still the fire may have been the result of an accident, although the facts point strongly to the other

presumption. From the negroes on the Sea Islands contiguous to those occupied by the troops of Gene ral Sherman we may safely assume that the blacks of Charleston have been excited, if not inflamed, by the wildest reports and theories of a coming jubilee. The slaves all along the coast between Beaufort and Charleston, on the one hand, and Savannah on the other, have lately been witnesses to, if not assistants in, the burning by the secessionists of their crops of cotton, corn and rice, to prevent their falling into the hands of "the Yankees." There hav doubtless, too, been such scenes of confusion and dismay of late among the whites of Charles ton, and such an aggravating pressure of terrorism and destitution there upon all classes, that they have operated seriously to demoralize the black population. The contrabands coming into the camps of General Sherman, when esked individually "Where is your master?" have answered, "Massa run off. Got no massa now Free man, now, massa;" and this idea may have inspired the negroes of Charleston to the comp d'état of a fire in behalf of "the Yankees" and their own deliverance.

But should this prove to be the truth, we still earnestly protest against this disorganizing abolition idea that it is our policy and our necessity to turn loose the slaves of the South and make them our incendiary allies in the work of suppressing this rebellion. If we were waging this war for the destruction and depopulation of the South, this abolition programme would serve our purposes; but, as it is the policy of the government to rescue the South from destruction, and to restore it to the protection of the Union, let the war be so conducted as to convince our Southern people that these are our purposes, and this rebellion will soon collapse and fall to pieces. Its elements of terror, extortion, spoliation, discord and dissolution are so abundant, and have become so formidable, that Jeff. Davis and his wretched despotism cannot much longer hold out against them. with or without a great battle. Let President Lincoln adhere to his honest and infallible Union war policy, and let General McClellan go on quietly with his grand cordon of military combinations, and we shall have this rebellion put down before the end of the winter. It is consuming its own vitals, and it cannot live.

Meantime this destructive fire at Charleston whether from accident or human design, or a visitation of Providence, is a deadly blow to secession. We may deplore the sufferings which it will bring upon thousands of destitute families; but we hope that millions will soon realize narrow his own medicine. But the beldness of this act by General Sherman and Commodore Dubout Park.

upon Charleston. The city is open to them, an with its occupation, or of what remains of it, by our troops, the existing consternation through out the South will be changed into a spon saneous popular reaction for the Union.

M. S. GREENHOW'S INDIGNANT LETTER TO MR SEWAND.-We are indebted to the Richmone Whig for the pungent letter which we publish to-day of Mrs. Rose Greenhow to Mr. Seward, outhing her late imprisonment in her own house in Washington, as a secession emissary Having been released and sent over into Seces sia, she doubtless furnished a copy of the letter in question to the journal from which it is ex tracted. It is just such a philippic as one would expect, under the circumstances, from a spirited lashing, active and fearless female politician of the South Carolina school of secession malignants. She complains bitterly of the rude and offensive behavior of her jailors; but she forgets that men thus employed are very seldom remarkable for the refinements and accomplishments, graces and gallantry of the fashionable circles of Washington. She discourses fluently; but flippantly upon the freedom of speech, and upon her right to exercise it, and upon the cruel tyranny of her imprisonment; but she forgets that while at large in Washington she was a dangerous agent of a hostile army besieging our national capital. Grant all the personal rights of freedom of speech and action which My Greenhow demands, in the midst of this great rebellion, and we may as well abolish our armies, and turn over the country to unrestrained ruffianism; for under this system of liberty we should all be at the mercy of ruffians and robbers.

In those gay secession circles which ruled the Court and Cabinet at our federal city under the diluted rose water administration of Mr. Buchanan, Mrs. Greenhow was a bright and shining light. She had no doubt shared with that brilliant and charming coterie, of which Mrs. Slidell and Mrs. Gwin were the ruling spirits, that splendid secession idea of the easy occupation of Washington by Jeff. Davis, his camp, Cabinet, Congress and government, and that under this new regime the fascinating coterie aforesaid, including Mrs. Greenhow, would be exalted to a higher and an indefinite reign of beauty and glory. Mr. Seward, however, interposed like an evil magician, and with a wave of his powerful wand destroyed all these beautiful castles in the clouds. And so we can excuse this piquant and pungent letter of Mrs. Greenhow. Even the great Napoleon, philosopher as he was, when cooped up at St. Helena could not refrain from scolding.

How the War Pays Its Own Expenses .--By the arrival of the steamer Illinois at Fortress Monroe, we have advices from Port Royal to the 11th instant. Affairs there seem in the best possible condition. All of the islands about Port Royal have been seized and are now held by the Union troops, and the cotton upon these islands is being picked by the contrabands, under the direction of our officers. About two million dollars worth of cotton has already been secured; and this sum will almost pay the expenses of the expedition. This is the way to make the war pay for itself. Our officers sent upon these expeditions ought to be instructed to collect the cotton as soon as our forces are landed, and ship it immediately to some Northern port. It is a wise Napoleonic rule of war to make the enemy pay the expenses of the army which conquers him.

IRON FLOATING BATTERIES.—We published last week full and detailed accounts of the monster floating battery now building at Hoboken, of the Stevens iron battery and of the Ericsson battery. With these the government has now five of these formidable engines of war nearly completed, and we are informed that specifications are ready and contracts will soon be givnty more. When th five iron floating batteries (including that to be presented by Mr. Stevens) are ready for action, all of the forts seized by the rebels will be easily retaken, and the secessionists will find that there is no safety, as well as no rest, for the wicked.

MES IN HATERDAY APPET THE STRANG _ There are a great many discharged and retired soldiers who glitter about our streets in uniforms which they have not the slightest right to wear. Many of these fellows are as bogus as Peter Funk watches, and bring discredit upon all genuine soldlers. A Provest Marshal ought to be appointed for this city, to overhanl these shoulder strapped centry and send them to their regiments, if they have any, or compel them to produce their furloughs or doff their uniforms. True soidiers are always modest, and, as these fellows lack modesty, it is very certain that they are not true soldiers.

SCARCITY OF BEGGARS .- In spite of the hardness of the times and the increasing coldness of the weather, there is a great scarcity of beggars in our streets. The pay sent home by soldiers, the open purses of our citizens, the provision made by the Corporation and by societies for the relief of volunteers' families and the providential mildness of the season account, in part, for this dearth of beggars. Our benevolent people should see to it that this scarcity continues. Benevolence is a great virtue, and, in war or peace, "the poor ye have always with you."

OUR GREAT ARMY-IS ASYRODY MISSER! Although New York city has sent thousands of soldiers to the wars, our streets seem as crowded as ever, and Broadway is just as brilliantly bronged as in times of peace. Except by the friends and relatives of the absent soldiers, no one appears to be missed. This one fact speaks volumes for the great resources of the North. We can send out another half million men, if necessary, and scarcely miss ever them-

THE POOR AND THE HOLIDAYS .- The helidays are now fast approaching, and already the ananual fairs for the poor, the widows and the orphans are being held all over the city. Now is the time for open purses and ready charity. Many families have been deprived of their supporters by the war, and it behoaves those of us who have the means to as dist these poor persons. Charity is always a duty, but at this time it is also a patriotic duty.

OPENING OF A NEW DRIVE IN THE CENTRAL PAUR .- A new drive, seven miles long, has just been completed in the Central Park, and will be opened to the public to-day. When the snows of winter come this new drive will afford the very finest opportunity for sleigh riding anywhere about the metropol's. Indeed our citizens will find that, in extent and beauty, this near drive is an impaced by any is the world. New York may well be record of her Central